

Our efforts abroad are not just about where the disease is located, but also who it impacts. From decreasing mother-to-child transmission and addressing the nuances of co-infections and co-morbidities to confronting the stigmas that undermine prevention and hinder access to life-saving healthcare, we are better positioned to confront the disease in all its stages and improve the quality of life for those living with the disease.

Complementing this effort is our continued march forward on the scientific front. While we have made great strides in drug development, this effort has been hampered by Congress' reluctance to fully support basic research in the sciences through the National Institutes of Health. Furthermore, we must work hard to ensure that treatment is accessible to everyone across the socio-economic spectrum, both domestically and internationally.

I served as a medical officer with the U.S. State Department in sub-Saharan Africa just as the full force of the AIDS epidemic became readily apparent. Infection was, by and large, a death sentence. Today, with anti-viral treatments we can talk about people living with AIDS, but this also reminds us that confronting the disease is more than just biology, but also public health and the social impact of the disease. One of my first accomplishments as a Member of Congress was to work with my colleagues to pass legislation that ensures those with AIDS have access to housing. Today, the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS program (HOPWA) continues to help ensure that those living with AIDS affordable housing and contributes to the stability needed to promote adherence to treatment regimens.

Today, we see overall declines in infection rates, but we must acknowledge that in some communities, this is not the case. While most sub-Saharan countries of Africa have seen decreases in rates of infection, this has not been the case in Angola and Uganda. Similarly, in the United States we see a geographical shift in rates of infection with the southeastern United States showing higher rates than other parts of the country. If past is precedent, meeting these challenges must start with a strong commitment to education, based in science, and dedicated to empowering communities through knowledge to confront the disease.

As we commemorate World AIDS Day this year, we can draw inspiration from our international response to the AIDS epidemic. Rather than a fearful reaction, ill-equipped because of ignorance, and disengaged because of empty rhetoric, the United States is rising to meet the challenge of an AIDS-free generation; motivated by compassion and the pursuit of wellbeing, armed with science, and committed through the dedication of resources. We can take pride in how far we have come, but our success must not breed a false sense of security. Our work is not done and Congress must provide the resources needed to ensure the United States government maintains its leadership role, both at home and abroad, in the effort to make an AIDS-free generation a reality.

HONORING THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION'S CIVIL RIGHTS COMMEMORATION TOUR

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the National Bar Association's Civil Rights Commemoration Tour during the 60th Commemoration of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Today, we honor the pivotal role that black lawyers played during the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Civil Rights Movement.

Sixty years ago, demonstrators in Montgomery boldly challenged the segregated bus system with the help of talented black attorneys who were committed to eradicating social injustices across the State of Alabama. Gifted lawyers like Thurgood Marshall, Fred Gray, Constance Baker Motley, U.W. Clemon and countless other African American attorneys argued and won some of the most pivotal cases of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Movement. Yet so often we overlook the courageous men and women who bravely defeated the government sanctioned oppression that was Jim Crow in the courtroom. Each of their stories is embedded in the fabric of this nation for they contributed to making America a more fair and just society.

The State of Alabama was home to some of the key black lawyers in the civil rights movement. One of the most impactful lawyers of the Movement was Alabama native, Fred Gray. Attorney Fred Gray came to prominence representing key figures in the Montgomery Bus Boycott including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Claudette Colvin, and Rosa Parks. He represented Rosa Parks on appeal for her conviction for violating Montgomery's public transit segregation law which ultimately led to the desegregation of buses throughout the City of Montgomery. Attorney Fred Gray later secured a victory in *Williams v. Wallace* (1963) which protected the Selma to Montgomery marchers. Attorney Fred Gray continues today to provide legal counsel to so many in the fight for social and economic justice. Attorney Fred Gray's indelible legacy paved the way for many other black lawyers including Judge U.W. Clemon, Alabama's first black federal judge and Judge Oscar Adams who was the first African-American Alabama Supreme Court Justice.

Likewise, the National Bar Association has consistently been recognized for its commitment to spearheading efforts to uplift those that are oppressed and disenfranchised. Since its inception in 1924, the National Bar Association has fostered and supported the important role of black lawyers in the fight for equal justice. Today, that legacy continues under the leadership of its President Attorney Benjamin Crump who is a modern-day example of what it means to fight for equality and justice in the courtroom.

As a Member of Congress and a former member of the National Bar Association, I am honored to welcome the association to my district during the 60th commemoration of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. During this special commemoration, we thank the National Bar Association for all of the work it has done and continues to do, and we salute its individual members who are working to make a difference in the lives of everyday Americans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the significant contributions and achievements to this nation of black lawyers and the National Bar Association during this 60th commemoration of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

IN HONOR OF BONNIE CARROLL, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM FOR HER COMMITMENT TO HEALING FAMILIES OF FALLEN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Bonnie Carroll, of Loudoun County, Virginia, who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom on November 24th. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is our nation's highest civilian honor, and I am humbled to recognize Mrs. Carroll today.

Mrs. Carroll is a retired major in the United States Air Force Reserve who has dedicated her career to aiding family members of our nation's veterans and service members. Following the death of her husband—Brig. Gen. Tom Charles Carroll, who died in an Army C-12 plane crash in Alaska in 1992—she founded the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), which seeks to support families who have lost loved ones in the military.

Mrs. Carroll utilized the resources given to her following her husband's death to start this fantastic organization that offers help to so many families who are grieving. As Founder and President, Mrs. Carroll has made it her priority to provide resources to families of fallen service members in their time of need. TAPS runs a peer support network that connects families with others who are grieving across the United States. Since its founding, TAPS has assisted over 50,000 family members.

Mrs. Carroll, we thank you for your stewardship in our community and your lifelong commitment to public service. You have made your nation and the 10th District of Virginia proud. I wish you the best of success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR MATTHEW R. KELLEY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Matthew R. Kelley for his dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Major Kelley will be transitioning from his present assignment to serve in the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

A native of Ekron, Kentucky, Major Kelley was commissioned as an Armor officer after his graduation from the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree